

The SPARK Knowledge Center offers resources that may be supportive to children and caregivers. Many can be found in the [Emergency Preparedness & Response](#) and [Trauma & Trauma-Informed Practice](#) categories. Some of these include:

- [Assisting Parents/Caregivers in Coping with Collective Traumas](#)
- [How to Talk to Children about War](#)
- [How to Talk to Kids When the News is Scary](#)
- [Little Listeners in an Uncertain World: Coping strategies for you and your young child after traumatic events](#)
- [After A Crisis: How Young Children Heal](#)
- [Helping Children with Tragic Events in the News](#)
- [When Bad Things Are Happening](#)

Additionally, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) Consultation is a free resource that supports children's social- emotional development from birth through age 5 within early learning programs participating in Keystone STARS. If your staff or families are experiencing stress due to the war in the Ukraine:

- Request IECMH services by completing the [Pennsylvania Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program Request for IECMHC Services Full Application](#) (Fillable PDF). Submit the form via email [PAIECMH@pakeys.org](mailto:PAIECMH@pakeys.org) or fax 717-213-3749.
- Contact program leadership directly. Programs and families email [PAIECMH@pakeys.org](mailto:PAIECMH@pakeys.org) with questions or concerns.

## **ELRC 18 Updates**

### **February Invoicing Deadline**

Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for timely submission of your February attendance invoice. If you don't use PELICAN Provider Self Service, please be sure to turn in your attendance invoice by e-mail ([ELRC18invs@caringpeoplealliance.org](mailto:ELRC18invs@caringpeoplealliance.org)), fax (215-940-0224), or by dropping off at one of ELRC's three locations (<https://philadelphiaelrc18.org/>).

### **Rates Increases**

Virtually all of the rate updates that we have received have been processed at this point. Appendix C2s will be mailed to all providers this week and next.

- Remember that the C2 does not include your Keystone STARS or non-traditional add-on.
- Please read the cover letter that will come with your C2 for important information about this.
- We continue to have providers updating their rates in PELICAN PSS. Please remember that we cannot convert those updated rates for subsidy use without an updated Appendix C1 and published rates.
- Updated rate documents received now will become effective the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month following receipt by ELRC.

- We've received requests to generate a new Enrollment Summary for all enrolled children. This is a manual process, and we do not have the manpower to do this. For accurate information about your reimbursement for a particular enrollment, please see your Payment Summary; it will give you the daily rate as well as the weekly copayment (if any).

### **ARPA Stabilization Grants**

The deadline to apply was 1/31/2022. The state has not released the reporting tool yet, but it will be located in the PD Registry. Auditing will take place in late summer/early fall, and we will only audit 5% of our grants (instead of 15%). ARPA Phase 2 is expected to be announced very soon, but payment will likely not go out until the summer.

### **Lots More Coming Up This Month**

- We're putting the finishing touches on the PPE opportunity with Office Basics. You should receive an e-mail from Office Basics directly in mid-March.
- ELRC18 will be sponsoring scholarships for Devereux's upcoming Flip It! Hybrid experience. Live kick-off, online PD (yes, you will earn PQAS credit for this part), live closing, follow-up check-ins and goodies! Here's the link to learn more, but **DO NOT** register on-line yet (you won't receive the scholarship)! We're working out those details now: <https://web.cvent.com/event/1500b38b-7883-414b-9f8e-dca86c7bb4ee/summary?RefId=dcrcwebsite>
- NAEYC will present an Accreditation "101" webinar at the end of the month. We're hoping for enough interest to have a cohort of providers work together toward this goal.
- Working on an ELRC training/PowerPoint for providers. Goal is to offer it live once a month and make the PowerPoint available on demand. Should be a great tool for new providers, as well as new staff in existing programs.

### **Upcoming Provider Networking Meetings**

- **3/10/2022** – Segundo Jueves – ELRC 18 Proveedores de habla hispana de 6p-8p ([Click HERE to join the Teams meeting at 6p](#))
- **3/12/2022** – Second Saturday at 9a – Quality Influential Professionals (QIP) family child care networking – open to all FCCH/GCCH providers. Join the Zoom meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85257112744>
- **3/16/2022** – Third Wednesday at 1p - Northwest Directors Meeting –*NOTE: This Zoom meeting is hosted by Childspace Centers and is open to all providers in the community. To RSVP and receive the meeting link, please e-mail [jfilante@childspacecenters.org](mailto:jfilante@childspacecenters.org).*
- **3/17/2022** – Third Thursday – ELRC 18 North Directors from 1-3p ([Click HERE to join the Teams meeting at 1p](#))
- **3/24/2022** – Fourth Thursday – ELRC 18 South/West Directors from 1-3p ([Click HERE to join the Teams meeting at 1p](#))
- **4/7/2022** – First Thursday – ELRC 18 Northeast Directors from 1-3p ([Click HERE to join the Teams meeting at 1p](#))

## **FCCH Business Administration Series Starts this Week!**

The Children's Village [beginner business series for FCCH](#) starts **Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**! We were also able to fund the [advanced series](#), which starts up shortly after this next beginner series ends (and requires completion of the beginner series in order to participate). These series typically cost \$300, but we're making them available to you **free of charge**. We want to make sure you're around to care for our kiddos for a very long time and that you can retire comfortably after doing so! If you haven't yet taken the series and feel like you can use some support in business practices, please see [the flyer](#) and register right away!

## **COVID Corner**

**Updated Guidance from PDPH** – This was updated on March 2<sup>nd</sup> -

<https://www.phila.gov/programs/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/guidance/guidance-documents/schools-guidance/>

**Reporting COVID Cases** - Remember that OCDEL requires you to report all cases of COVID-19 in your program to both Certification and the Department of Public Health. In Philadelphia, the easiest way to do this is to use the following link:

[https://phillyhs.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1NWgJ7yfK46dXMi](https://phillyhs.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1NWgJ7yfK46dXMi)

**How to reflect COVID-related closures/absences on your CCW invoice** - If you close due to COVID-19, do not enter closure (paid or unpaid) through PELICAN Provider Self Service. Instead, all COVID-related closures/absences should be recorded on your invoicing as follows. As long as you report as required (see above), ELRC can pay you for up to 14 consecutive business days of COVID-related closure or absence.

### **ONLINE:**

Mark the children absent and enter the "COVID-related absence" comment by clicking on the hyperlink under each child's name. The comment is very important to make sure you are paid correctly and that the absences aren't counted toward the children's annual cap.

### **PAPER:**

Mark the children absent using the code CA. This is very important to make sure you are paid correctly and that the absences aren't counted toward the children's annual cap.

**Co-payments during COVID-related closure/absence** - Please remember that subsidy co-payments are not to be collected when there is a full week of COVID-related absence or closure. Co-payments are not prorated, so if even one day of care is provided, the full co-payment is due. If you have any questions, please reach out to [ELRC18providers@caringpeoplealliance.org](mailto:ELRC18providers@caringpeoplealliance.org) or at (215) 382-4762 ext. 2980.

**Masks** – If you are in need of disposable masks, please e-mail [Nina.L-Grosbard@phila.gov](mailto:Nina.L-Grosbard@phila.gov).

## **PHLpreK Provider Application and Timeline for the 2022-2023 School Year**

The City of Philadelphia's Office of Children and Families (OCF) is pleased to announce the application process for childcare providers interested in PHLpreK seats for the 2022-2023 school year.

The City funded 4,000 quality pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) seats at over 150 locations in the current (2021-22) school year and plans to expand by up to 300 seats in the coming (2022-23) school year. Two applications will be available:

1. **Renewal Application** for current providers.
2. **Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Pre-Qualified providers.** The RFQ process is designed to develop a pool of new providers to be considered for slot awards in the 2022-2023 school year that result from redistribution for existing contracts or increased funding to support program expansion.

[Click here](#) to see the PHLpreK Timeline for PHLpreK Application for Funding. All questions about the application should be directed to [phlprek@phmc.org](mailto:phlprek@phmc.org).

### **Pre-Application Conference Sessions**

To register for one of these sessions please click on the link for the session you wish to attend. Sessions will also be recorded. **Please note that the pre-application session is mandatory for any new providers, and current providers proposing new locations. It is optional for returning providers.**

#### ***Renewal Application Sessions (Optional)***

These sessions are for current providers wishing to submit a renewal application for a currently funded location. For those current providers also interested in applying for a new location, the last half hour of this session will focus on the RFQ for Pre-Qualification.

- **March 9, 2022 (Renewal)**  
1:00 – 2:30pm [Register here](#)
- **March 11, 2022 (Renewal)**  
10:00am-11:30pm [Register here](#)

#### ***Request for Qualifications for Pre-Qualification Sessions (Mandatory)***

These sessions are for new providers, or current providers proposing new locations, wishing to become a part of PHLpreK in the 2022-23 school year. Attendance at a Pre-Application session is a requirement for new providers or those with new locations to apply for PHLpreK funding in the coming year.

- **March 9, 2022 (Pre-Qualified)**  
4:00 – 6:00pm [Register here](#)
- **March 10, 2022 (Pre-Qualified)**  
11:00am-1:00pm [Register here](#)
- **March 11, 2022 (Pre-Qualified)**

2:00-4:00pm [Register here](#)

## **Child Care Hiring Days for PA**

**Are you hiring?** You are not alone! With the majority of child care programs experiencing staffing shortages, we are taking action to connect job seekers to hiring early learning programs throughout Pennsylvania. ECE programs can participate in **Child Care Hiring Days for PA on March 29, 30 and 31, 2022** at no cost! During this 3-day event, ECE programs will host walk-in hiring events, featuring on-the-spot interviews at their locations. Programs will display yellow balloons, ribbons, or stars in front of their facility to signify that they are participating in Child Care Hiring Days of PA. This event will be widely advertised via radio, social media and community organizations. The event aims to simplify the job search and hiring process for potential applicants and promote the rewards of working in early childhood education. **You can register, post your job positions, view the recorded Information Session and learn more at ECEhire.com!** [Child Care Hiring Days for PA \(phmc.org\)](http://phmc.org)

## **PQA Team – Talking Quality and Providing Individualized Supports**

The Program Quality Assessment team at the PA Key is now available to support you one-on-one in a variety of areas:

- Classroom environment, interactions, practices
- Targeted health and safety coaching
- Targeted leadership, management and business practices coaching
- Other classroom focused support as requested

Contact your quality coach if interested. Here's the contact list for quality coaches:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/tt11v7wz9ribxemn4990h/Provider-Caseload-List-STARS-External-revised-2-9-2022.docx?dl=0&rlkey=kyd1rkb6y2j7as0a6ogoyxcet>

Additionally, the Let's Talk Quality series for March starts on **Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>** and will focus on Art. See the [attached flyer](#) for dates and additional information.

## **PD Registry Virtual Office Hours in Spanish**

The PD Registry team will be holding 3 virtual office hours in Spanish over the next 3 months. The first session will be held this week, **March 9, 2022**. The team will be holding office hours in the afternoon and evening. Office hours details are available in the attachments ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)).

## **Free Webinar: Movement - FUN With a Purpose!**

**Wednesday, March 9, 2022, 2:00-3:00PM (Central)**

Link to Register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkdu-vqjouGtbZI83AeKrhkaiy6IXERn07>

**Presented by: Bev Schumacher**

Invite preschoolers to purposefully move as they learn, while having FUN. This training will share simple resources, ideas, and activities that can extend indoor and outdoor movement

experiences. Ten movement principles, reflections about active play, and tested suggestions will guide educators to make **Movement - FUN With a Purpose!** Bev Schumacher offers trainings rich with practical experience in the field of family engagement and early learning. She is an author, presenter, consultant, & creator of educational games & books. Her background includes teaching, working in a public library, being a home visitor and a parent engagement coordinator. She is passionate about empowering educators to embrace PARENTS as PARTNERS in supporting learning outcomes.

## **Helping Child Care Programs with Health Policies and Procedures**

**Thursday, March 10, 2022, 2–3 p.m. ET**

**[Register Online Now!](#)**

Child care health consultants (CCHCs) support early childhood programs in many ways, including with policy development and implementation. Program policies and procedures that are science-informed and evidence-based help ensure the health, safety, and wellness of children, families, and staff. In this CCHC series webinar, explore strategies and resources CCHCs and program leadership can use to review and develop health policies and procedures.

### **Key Topics**

In this webinar, we're discussing:

- Supporting collaborative relationships between CCHCs and early childhood programs
- Engaging program leadership, staff, and families to create effective health and safety procedures
- Resources to review and develop health policies and procedures

### **Target Audience**

This webinar benefits:

- CCHCs
- Head Start and Early Head Start health services staff and other service area managers
- Child care directors
- Nurses working with child care and pre-K programs
- Child care resource and referral agency personnel

### **How to Register**

Select the link to register for the webinar:

**[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ZAJyJLAUTxizjliGZna88w](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZAJyJLAUTxizjliGZna88w)**

Watch the full **[CCHC series](#)** on-demand.

### **Related Resources**

Explore related resources on the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC) to learn more.

- **[CCHC Competencies](#)**
- **[CCHC Skill-Building Modules](#)**

- [CCHCs Make Early Care and Education Programs Healthier and Safer](#)

### **Stay Connected**

Join [MyPeers](#) to connect with Head Start and early childhood colleagues around the country on this and other topics. Members of the **Child Care Health Consultants** community are currently networking, sharing, and learning from each other. Find it under "All Communities" and select the blue "Join" button.

Please share this message with colleagues who may be interested in this topic. Did someone forward you this invitation? [Subscribe](#) to stay up to date!

### **Questions?**

Send your questions or comments to the National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety at [health@ecetta.info](mailto:health@ecetta.info) or (toll-free) 888-227-5125.

## **Building Social and Emotional Development Outdoors**

**Thursday, March 17, 2022, 3–4 p.m. ET**

[Register Online Now!](#)

Did you know that being outside fuels social and emotional development? It's true! Preschool children are often engaged in social activities when outdoors, and active bodies often lead to active emotions. These are the elements children need for constructive social and emotional learning. This Front Porch webinar begins a three-part series that explores learning outdoors during the preschool years. In this first episode, Dawson Nichols and Marley Jarvis from the National Center on Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning (NCECDTL) discuss the ways outdoor environments create ideal conditions for children's social and emotional development. They explain how adults can use outdoor environments to help build social and emotional skills in children ages 3 to 5. This webinar has English and Spanish captioning.

### **Key Topics**

Topics for the webinar include:

- How the outdoors provides a rich learning environment for social and emotional development
- Strategies for creating and using outdoor spaces to support social and emotional development for children ages 3 to 5

### **Target Audience**

This webinar benefits:

- Head Start, Migrant and Seasonal Head Start, and American Indian and Alaska Native Head Start program staff, directors, managers, and administrators
- Child care program staff, directors, managers, and administrators
- TTA providers
- Federal and Regional Office staff
- Head Start Collaboration Offices

### How to Register

Select the link to register:

<https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/3485282/46D20D00A6C9A6A89AA631AD5D42446C>

Certificates of completion are available for this webinar.

Watch all of the [Front Porch Series](#) videos on-demand!

### Related Resources

Explore related resources on the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC) to learn more.

- [Using the Natural World to Support Children's Development](#)
- [25 Easy Ideas for Nature Play for Early Childhood Centers](#)
- [Nature-based Learning and Development for Teachers](#)

### Stay Connected

Join [MyPeers](#) to connect with Head Start and early childhood colleagues around the country on this and other topics.

Please share this message with colleagues who may be interested in this topic.

Did someone forward you this invitation? [Subscribe](#) to stay up to date!

### Questions?

Send your questions and comments to NCECDTL at [ecdtl@ecetta.info](mailto:ecdtl@ecetta.info) or (toll-free) 844-261-3752.

## **Free Devereux Webinar: Resilience and Racial Equity**

**Friday, March 18, 2022 from 1-2:15pm ET**

[Grab Your Spot](#)

We are all striving to create early care and education spaces that promote resilience and racial equity. We invite you to join Nefertiti B. Poyner, Ed.D., and Rachel Wagner, MSW, as they help us think about how resilience work is equity work. Together, we will explore the intersections of risk, protection, resilience, social-emotional learning and racism. Race is not a risk factor, but experiencing racism and implicit bias puts Black and Brown children at higher risk for being overdisciplined and under-nurtured. The protective factors of healthy relationships, self-regulation, initiative, and internal beliefs can fortify both children and adults as we work to create culturally responsive and sustaining environments, where Black and Brown children's identities can be amplified and empowered. In this webinar, we will learn to use a resilience framework to combat racism and promote social justice in early care and education. If we are going to protect and promote the resilience of Black and Brown children, we each have to fight fearlessly against racial injustice. What will you do differently? *Registration capacity is 1,000. Spots will fill fast, so don't hesitate! Can't make it to the live delivery? You can still register to guarantee your access to the recording.*

**March 18<sup>th</sup> CWGEC Conference**



**Friday, March 18, 2022 from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM EDT**

[Register Now](#)

The CWGEC Conference will feature BELL's Sarah Vrabic and FathersRead365 (FR365). Ms. Vrabic and her colleagues at Villanova University recently had research published in a peer-reviewed journal on families in Philadelphia's shelters. She will share with us the experiences of many of our families. FathersRead365's (FR365) mission is to encourage fathers and/or caregivers to read daily with children in a variety of settings to develop literacy from birth. FR365 provides an early intervention method structured to increase the amount of books read and given away to preschoolers through kindergarten and create a culture of literacy.

## **Head Start Collaboration and Partnerships to Support Families Experiencing Homelessness**

Please see [the recent report](#) from the Pennsylvania Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) on existing collaborations among key partners that serve families experiencing homelessness. It also offers recommendations to grow collaboration and partnerships among Head Start grantees in Pennsylvania.

## **PACCA Spring Webinars**

PACCA is pleased to offer the following webinars this spring! Pick and choose the topics that work for you! PQAS/PD Registry hours are available for each webinar. Questions? Contact Maureen Murphy at [maureen.murphy@pacca.org](mailto:maureen.murphy@pacca.org). We look forward to seeing you!

- **The ABCs of CQI**

**Wednesday, March 23, 2022 | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST**

This session, geared toward program Leadership, will discuss what Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) is and why it is so important for ECE and School-Age programs, as well as how CQI relates to the Keystone STARS Standards and requirements. We will give you creative tools and techniques to help guide and inform your CQI Plan as well as to get your staff involved in the planning process. Lastly, you will have the opportunity to create a CQI goal and discuss it with a small group of participants in a breakout room. Our hope is that you will gain a better understanding of how CQI planning can help maximize your program's quality improvements.

Participants will be able to:

- Define Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) and describe what it means for Keystone STARS programs in PA.
- Identify various techniques and tools to help guide and inform their CQI plan and to involve staff members in the creation of the plan
- Complete your own CQI goal and discuss it with a small group of participants

**Instructors:**

Jenn Wertz and Elizabeth Marcello, STARS Quality Coaches, Child Care Consultants

**Cost:** PACCA Members - \$10.00 | Non-Members - \$20.00

[Click Here to Register](#) | Zoom - Link will be sent after registration

- **Family Engagement**

**Wednesday, April 13, 2022 | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST**

This session will focus on engaging families in your program – after all, family engagement is not just a holiday concert. Family involvement vs. family engagement will be discussed, with the importance on the relationship. Strategies for increasing engagement and offering (in-person and virtual) activities will be reviewed and you will have the opportunity to share what you’ve been doing in your program. You are guaranteed to come away with at least one new way for families to take more interest in what is going on in your program!

- Participants will be able to:
- List reasons why building relationships with the families of the children in their care (and supporting staff in doing the same) is essential to the child’s success.
- Identify different forms of communication and ways to engage families in their program.

**Instructor:** Jenn Wertz, STARS Quality Coach, Child Care Consultants

**Cost:** PACCA Members - \$10.00 | Non-Members - \$20.00

[Click Here to Register](#) | Zoom - Link will be sent after registration

- **The Importance of Nature in Early Childhood Education**

**Wednesday, May 4, 2022 | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST**

You’ve heard the terms. “Nature-based learning”, “nature-based ECE”, “nature play”, “forest school”, “forest kindergarten”. But are they really crucial for young children? And if so, how do you begin to implement them into your already-established curriculum? In this workshop we will look at the benefits of nature for young children and how incorporating more nature into your day will create joyful environments for you and your children. We will discuss simple strategies for incorporating nature both indoors and outdoors, and how this type of experiential, hands-on learning will help reduce challenging behaviors in your classroom.

Participants will be able to:

- Describe the benefits of nature for young children and why it is crucial for their development.
- Recognize how challenging behaviors lessen in the classroom when children participate in hand-on, child-led play, which often involves nature.
- Identify ways to incorporate nature both indoors and outdoors with their classrooms.

**Instructor:** Elizabeth Marcello, STARS Quality Coach, Child Care Consultants

**Cost:** PACCA Members - \$10.00 | Non-Members - \$20.00  
[Click Here to Register](#) | Zoom - Link will be sent after registration

- **ADVOCACY SERIES**

**Nuts and Bolts (Session 1 of 2)**

**Wednesday, March 30, 2022 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM**

We will lay out the PA budget process, what's a "target," an "ask," the role(s) of advocates and legislators, how to research your targets, make your approach, and prep for the meeting. At the end of the session you'll get a homework assignment that could take up to a half-hour.

**Facilitator:** Shawn Towey, Public Policy/Community Outreach Manager, PACCA

**Cost:** \$0.00 (All Registrants)

[Click Here to Register for session 1](#) | Zoom - Link will be sent after registration

**I Scheduled a Meeting with my Legislator! Now What? (Session 2 of 2)**

**Wednesday, April 6, 2022 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM**

We'll show you how to shape your own story into effective communication that will resonate with your audience. Adapt our talking points around the 2022 state budget into messages they'll remember. We'll review the Start Strong PA and Pre-K for PA "asks" around child care and pre-k. You'll be able to prep your staff and parents to be active participants on your team.

**Facilitator:** Shawn Towey, Public Policy/Community Outreach Manager, PACCA

**Cost:** \$0.00 (All Registrants)

[Click Here to Register for session 2](#) | Zoom - Link will be sent after registration

## **"This Girl in On Fire": An Intergenerational Conversation**

In honor of Women's History month please join "**This Girl in On Fire": An Intergenerational Conversation**, Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> 1:00-2:30pm in which diverse women will create opportunities to build trust through highlighting shared experiences and powerful self-reflections. Please register to participate in these restorative conversations sponsored by Black National Child Development Institute (BCDI-Philadelphia), Family Childcare Coalition (FC3), Innovative Educational Consulting Services (Damaris A-Rodriguez), The Education Institute for Early Intervention (EIEI), The Kimble Group, LLC, The Voice of Early Childhood Education, and Quality Influential Professionals (QIP). <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEsd-gurz4rGtbnmokSRkMc8PNtz9x7QC7>

## **Call for Vendors!**

*You are invited to participate in Caring People Alliance's [Founder's Day Community Resource Fair](#) in Cobbs Creek.*

**April 21, 2022 – 3 to 7p**

Caring People Alliance's founders Charles Edwin Fox, Esq., a leader in the founding of the Big Brother [Big Sister] Association of Philadelphia and philanthropist Samuel S. Fels brought together nearly two hundred prominent leaders in business and social welfare, judges, and lawyers on April 21, 1932, to found our organization. Now, 90 years later, we will be opening the doors of our newest Boys & Girls Club to continue our mission of reducing poverty and injustice. We invite the community to participate in this day, and one way to participate is through our Community Resource Fair. Vendors from the community are now invited to join Caring People Alliance in presenting community resources during this in-person event being held on the second-floor gymnasium at the new West Philadelphia Boys & Girls Club, located at 5843-55 Catharine Street. Learn more on our website: [www.caringpeoplealliance.org/events/community-resource-fairs](http://www.caringpeoplealliance.org/events/community-resource-fairs)

### **New PD Opportunity - Early Intervention Service Delivery: Coaching Across Settings**

This self-paced eTraining for the Early Childhood Education (ECE) community is now available for ECE programs across the commonwealth. In order to access, ECE personnel can visit the [PA PD Registry](#) and use the Filter by Title feature to search for “Early Intervention Service Delivery: Coaching Across Settings.” This course will help you understand how Early Childhood Education professionals will collaborate with Early Intervention staff (EI) to support children with disabilities. Participants will explore the various components of OCDEL Announcement EI-20-03 Early Intervention Service Delivery: Coaching Across Settings and learn how the Principles of Early Intervention in Pennsylvania are demonstrated throughout the work of Early Intervention and Early Childhood staff within early childhood classrooms/programs.

### **Are You Ready for the 2022 Week of the Young Child™?**

*(From NAEYC)*

We can't wait to celebrate WOYC with you this year, April 2-8, 2022. Join NAEYC as we celebrate our youngest learners with five fun-filled, themed days. All week long we'll be featuring resources and activity ideas for teachers and families that will make play meaningful and learning fun! NAEYC invites you to celebrate and shine a spotlight on your classroom, advocacy, and family engagement activities via our social channels. We look forward to seeing all the creative ways you find to engage young children and their families with hands-on, collaborative activities encouraging movement and healthy lifestyles through music, food, and art. Start planning your week around our [daily classroom celebration themes](#). Or create your own! The important thing is that we're celebrating the potential of ALL young children to learn, grow and thrive! Discover [resources and Step It Up \(SIU\) ideas](#) to use in your planning. The updated 2022 version will be available soon. Share your ideas with us on social media sites using #WOYC22 or email us at [woyc@naeyc.org](mailto:woyc@naeyc.org).

### **Drexel ECE Scholarships**

Both scholarships can be used for online programs, allowing licensed providers and assistants to continue their careers and prepare for advancement. The two scholarships include:

- PA Teach – which offers a 95% tuition discount for the post-bachelors teacher certification in PreK-4 - <https://drexel.edu/soe/resources/community/TEACH/>
- PHMC – which offers our Bachelor in Elementary Education/PreK-4 for a 100% tuition discount. - <https://drexel.edu/soe/resources/community/phmc-ece-scholarship/>

Email [ceec@drexel.edu](mailto:ceec@drexel.edu) with any questions.

## **Provider Advisory Board Applications Now Available**

The [Start Strong PA](#) and [Pre-K for PA](#) Campaigns are seeking out early childhood professionals to participate as a lead advocate in their region by serving on the first statewide Start Strong PA and Pre-K for PA Provider Advisory Board! Early childhood professionals are [invited to apply](#) for this opportunity through March 28.

## **ECELS EMAIL ALERT: Contaminated Baby Formula Alert**

Please be advised that the FDA is currently investigating powdered infant products produced at Abbott Nutrition's facility in Sturgis, Michigan. Four infants have been hospitalized and one infant has died as a result of their illnesses, believed to be tied to the bacterium Cronobacter sakazakii and the strain Salmonella Newport. Read more [here](#). Parents and consumers are advised to avoid any powdered infant formula developed in the Sturgis facility. The FDA recommends that consumers avoid Similac, Alimentum and EleCare formulas if they contain the following criteria:

- The first two digits of the code are 22 through 37
- The code on the container includes K8, SH or Z2
- The expiration date is 4-1-2022 (APR 2022) or later

The code on the bottom of the package can also be entered [here](#) to determine whether the product is affected.

An article has been posted on this topic on HealthyChildren.org - [What should I know about the infant formula recall?](#)

## **Family Self-sufficiency Resource: CLARIFI**

*Please share the following resource with your staff and families:*

Do you live in a Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) property or have a Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8)? Are you interested in increasing your income and building your savings?

The Family Self-Sufficiency program is designed to help you reach your financial goals.

What's your goal?

- Increase your income
- Go back to school
- Establish and maintain good credit
- Purchase a home

<https://www.clarifi.org/what-we-do/financial-empowerment/family-self-sufficiency/>

(267) 546-1153

## **PA's Water Assistance Program is Here to Help**

Funding continues to be available for eligible individuals and families experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic through the [Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program \(LIHWAP\)](#). This assistance can aid in maintaining households' access to drinking and wastewater services essential to ongoing health and overall wellbeing. Program funds are issued directly to the service providers in the form of grants, or crisis grants depending on situation severity. To qualify for the program, participants must either rent or own their home, have overdue water bills, and meet [program income guidelines](#). [Apply now for water help!](#)

## **Help for a Friend...**

If you use Smartcare, please help a friend! Contact Charlene Rawlinson of Lene's Daily Child Care at [lene@leneschildcare.com](mailto:lene@leneschildcare.com).

## **Cubbies Available**

Lamont Academy has cubbies available free of charge, as long as you can pick them up. Please see the [attached pictures](#) and contact Naimah Skipworth at 215-329-2200 if you're interested.

## **Job Openings**

- **ELRC Region 18** is hiring for the following positions: Provider Specialist, Eligibility Specialist, Accounting Specialist, Administrative Assistant. Interested applicants should send their resume to Sheila Colon at [scolon@caringpeoplealliance.org](mailto:scolon@caringpeoplealliance.org).
- **OCDEL's Southeast Regional Certification office** is hiring certification representatives. For additional information: [https://www.dropbox.com/s/3uvpyv57h4w2tjf/Job Posting - Certification Representative%2C Southeast South %28External%29.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/3uvpyv57h4w2tjf/Job%20Posting%20-%20Certification%20Representative%20-%20Southeast%20South%20-%20External%29.pdf?dl=0)
- **The ECE PDO at PHMC is Hiring** - View open positions by searching "PDO" on PHMC's careers page at <https://www.phmc.org/site/careers>.
- **First Up and VISTA** is looking for our next Community Outreach Coordinator for the Community-driven Design Project! The goal is to better understand and develop specialized programming for our constituents in underserved and vulnerable communities. The overall goal of the VISTA Fellow is to build capacity for the work of First Up, and to reach all providers in the most vulnerable and under-resourced areas of our region. To apply or to learn more [CLICK HERE!](#)
- **Caring People Alliance** currently has two exciting employment opportunities open at our South Philadelphia Boys & Girls Club Marconi Program! We are currently seeking a [Director of Older Adult Services](#) and a [Program Counselor of Older Adult Services](#). The Director of Older Adult Services is responsible for providing administrative oversight for the older adult program serving active adults over the age of 50. The salary ranges from \$50,000-\$55,000 annually. The Program Counselor provides direct services to participants attending the older adult program for active senior citizens including resource counseling, service coordination, and personal guidance. The starting salary is \$16.57 an hour. If you have an interest in either one of these roles, please review the

job descriptions attached and apply by emailing your resume to Branon Gilmore, at [bgilmore@caringpeoplealliance.org](mailto:bgilmore@caringpeoplealliance.org) and cc'ing [klorenzi@caringpeoplealliance.org](mailto:klorenzi@caringpeoplealliance.org).

## **SSIC You Later!**

Finally, here's another tip on using Sesame Street in Communities ([www.ssic.org](http://www.ssic.org)) to meet the Keystone Standards in your program...

### ***You can use the [Managing Big Bundles](#) resource on SSIC toward meeting Standard FC 3.4.8***

Unexpected (and even expected) changes can lead to big feelings for young children. The resources in this bundle will...

- introduce the idea of emotional literacy,
- offer strategies to help families talk about and express emotions,
- provide playful activities you can do together to manage big feelings.

Sign up for your free SSIC account now! Reach out to ELRC 18's Abby Ambassadors – Cheri Howard, Gladys Leon and Sherell Hamilton – for help navigating the website or to explore other ideas on ways to use this FREE and fun resource to help meet your STAR standards!

The SPARK Knowledge Center offers resources that may be supportive to children and caregivers. Many can be found in the [Emergency Preparedness & Response](#) and [Trauma & Trauma-Informed Practice](#) categories. Some of these include:

- [Assisting Parents/Caregivers in Coping with Collective Traumas](#)
- [How to Talk to Children about War](#)
- [How to Talk to Kids When the News is Scary](#)
- [Little Listeners in an Uncertain World: Coping strategies for you and your young child after traumatic events](#)
- [After A Crisis: How Young Children Heal](#)
- [Helping Children with Tragic Events in the News](#)
- [When Bad Things Are Happening](#)

Additionally, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) Consultation is a free resource that supports children's social- emotional development from birth through age 5 within early learning programs participating in Keystone STARS. If your staff or families are experiencing stress due to the war in the Ukraine:

- Request IECMH services by completing the [Pennsylvania Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program Request for IECMHC Services Full Application](#) (Fillable PDF). Submit the form via email [PAIECMH@pakeys.org](mailto:PAIECMH@pakeys.org) or fax 717-213-3749.
- Contact program leadership directly. Programs and families email [PAIECMH@pakeys.org](mailto:PAIECMH@pakeys.org) with questions or concerns.

## **ELRC 18 Updates**

### **February Invoicing Deadline**

Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for timely submission of your February attendance invoice. If you don't use PELICAN Provider Self Service, please be sure to turn in your attendance invoice by e-mail ([ELRC18invs@caringpeoplealliance.org](mailto:ELRC18invs@caringpeoplealliance.org)), fax (215-940-0224), or by dropping off at one of ELRC's three locations (<https://philadelphiaelrc18.org/>).

### **Rates Increases**

Virtually all of the rate updates that we have received have been processed at this point. Appendix C2s will be mailed to all providers this week and next.

- Remember that the C2 does not include your Keystone STARS or non-traditional add-on.
- Please read the cover letter that will come with your C2 for important information about this.
- We continue to have providers updating their rates in PELICAN PSS. Please remember that we cannot convert those updated rates for subsidy use without an updated Appendix C1 and published rates.
- Updated rate documents received now will become effective the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month following receipt by ELRC.
- We've received requests to generate a new Enrollment Summary for all enrolled children. This is a manual process, and we do not have the manpower to do this. For accurate information about your reimbursement for a particular enrollment, please see your Payment Summary; it will give you the daily rate as well as the weekly copayment (if any).

#### **ARPA Stabilization Grants**

The deadline to apply was 1/31/2022. The state has not released the reporting tool yet, but it will be located in the PD Registry. Auditing will take place in late summer/early fall, and we will only audit 5% of our grants (instead of 15%). ARPA Phase 2 is expected to be announced very soon, but payment will likely not go out until the summer.

#### **Lots More Coming Up This Month**

- We're putting the finishing touches on the PPE opportunity with Office Basics. You should receive an e-mail from Office Basics directly in mid-March.
- ELRC18 will be sponsoring scholarships for Devereux's upcoming Flip It! Hybrid experience. Live kick-off, online PD (yes, you will earn PQAS credit for this part), live closing, follow-up check-ins and goodies! Here's the link to learn more, but **DO NOT** register on-line yet (you won't receive the scholarship)! We're working out those details now:  
<https://web.cvent.com/event/1500b38b-7883-414b-9f8e-dca86c7bb4ee/summary?RefId=dcrcwebsite>
- NAEYC will present an Accreditation "101" webinar at the end of the month. We're hoping for enough interest to have a cohort of providers work together toward this goal.
- Working on an ELRC training/PowerPoint for providers. Goal is to offer it live once a month and make the PowerPoint available on demand. Should be a great tool for new providers, as well as new staff in existing programs.

#### **Upcoming Provider Networking Meetings**

- **3/10/2022** – Segundo Jueves – ELRC 18 Proveedores de habla hispana de 6p-8p ([Click HERE to join the Teams meeting at 6p](#))
- **3/12/2022** – Second Saturday at 9a – Quality Influential Professionals (QIP) family child care networking – open to all FCCH/GCCH providers. Join the Zoom meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85257112744>
- **3/16/2022** – Third Wednesday at 1p - Northwest Directors Meeting –*NOTE: This Zoom meeting is hosted by Childspace Centers and is open to all providers in the community. To RSVP and receive the meeting link, please e-mail [jfilante@childspacecenters.org](mailto:jfilante@childspacecenters.org).*
- **3/17/2022** – Third Thursday – ELRC 18 North Directors from 1-3p ([Click HERE to join the Teams meeting at 1p](#))
- **3/24/2022** – Fourth Thursday – ELRC 18 South/West Directors from 1-3p ([Click HERE to join the Teams meeting at 1p](#))
- **4/7/2022** – First Thursday – ELRC 18 Northeast Directors from 1-3p ([Click HERE to join the Teams meeting at 1p](#))

**FCCH Business Administration Series Starts this Week!**



The Children's Village [beginner business series for FCCH](#) starts **Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**! We were also able to fund the [advanced series](#), which starts up shortly after this next beginner series ends (and requires completion of the beginner series in order to participate). These series typically cost \$300, but we're making them available to you **free of charge**. We want to make sure you're around to care for our kiddos for a very long time and that you can retire comfortably after doing so! If you haven't yet taken the series and feel like you can use some support in business practices, please see [the flyer](#) and register right away!

### **COVID Corner**

**Updated Guidance from PDPH** – This was updated on March 2<sup>nd</sup> -

<https://www.phila.gov/programs/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/guidance/guidance-documents/schools-guidance/>

**Reporting COVID Cases** - Remember that OCDEL requires you to report all cases of COVID-19 in your program to both Certification and the Department of Public Health. In Philadelphia, the easiest way to do this is to use the following link: [https://phillyhs.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1NWgJ7yfk46dXMi](https://phillyhs.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1NWgJ7yfk46dXMi)

**How to reflect COVID-related closures/absences on your CCW invoice** - If you close due to COVID-19, do not enter closure (paid or unpaid) through PELICAN Provider Self Service. Instead, all COVID-related closures/absences should be recorded on your invoicing as follows. As long as you report as required (see above), ELRC can pay you for up to 14 consecutive business days of COVID-related closure or absence.

ONLINE:

Mark the children absent and enter the "COVID-related absence" comment by clicking on the hyperlink under each child's name. The comment is very important to make sure you are paid correctly and that the absences aren't counted toward the children's annual cap.

PAPER:

Mark the children absent using the code CA. This is very important to make sure you are paid correctly and that the absences aren't counted toward the children's annual cap.

**Co-payments during COVID-related closure/absence** - Please remember that subsidy co-payments are not to be collected when there is a full week of COVID-related absence or closure. Co-payments are not prorated, so if even one day of care is provided, the full co-payment is due. If you have any questions, please reach out to [ELRC18providers@caringpeoplealliance.org](mailto:ELRC18providers@caringpeoplealliance.org) or at (215) 382-4762 ext. 2980.

**Masks** – If you are in need of disposable masks, please e-mail [Nina.L-Grosbard@phila.gov](mailto:Nina.L-Grosbard@phila.gov).

### **PHLpreK Provider Application and Timeline for the 2022-2023 School Year**

The City of Philadelphia's Office of Children and Families (OCF) is pleased to announce the application process for childcare providers interested in PHLpreK seats for the 2022-2023 school year.

The City funded 4,000 quality pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) seats at over 150 locations in the current (2021-22) school year and plans to expand by up to 300 seats in the coming (2022-23) school year. Two applications will be available:

1. **Renewal Application** for current providers.
2. **Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Pre-Qualified providers**. The RFQ process is designed to develop a pool of new providers to be considered for slot awards in the 2022-2023 school year that result from redistribution for existing contracts or increased funding to support program expansion.

[Click here](#) to see the PHLpreK Timeline for PHLpreK Application for Funding. All questions about the application should be directed to [phlprek@phmc.org](mailto:phlprek@phmc.org).

### **Pre-Application Conference Sessions**

To register for one of these sessions please click on the link for the session you wish to attend. Sessions will also be recorded. **Please note that the pre-application session is mandatory for any new providers, and current providers proposing new locations. It is optional for returning providers.**

### ***Renewal Application Sessions (Optional)***

These sessions are for current providers wishing to submit a renewal application for a currently funded location. For those current providers also interested in applying for a new location, the last half hour of this session will focus on the RFQ for Pre-Qualification.

- **March 9, 2022 (Renewal)**

1:00 – 2:30pm [Register here](#)

- **March 11, 2022 (Renewal)**

10:00am-11:30pm [Register here](#)

### ***Request for Qualifications for Pre-Qualification Sessions (Mandatory)***

These sessions are for new providers, or current providers proposing new locations, wishing to become a part of PHLpreK in the 2022-23 school year. Attendance at a Pre-Application session is a requirement for new providers or those with new locations to apply for PHLpreK funding in the coming year.

- **March 9, 2022 (Pre-Qualified)**

4:00 – 6:00pm [Register here](#)

- **March 10, 2022 (Pre-Qualified)**

11:00am-1:00pm [Register here](#)

- **March 11, 2022 (Pre-Qualified)**

2:00-4:00pm [Register here](#)

### **Child Care Hiring Days for PA**

**Are you hiring?** You are not alone! With the majority of child care programs experiencing staffing shortages, we are taking action to connect job seekers to hiring early learning programs throughout Pennsylvania. ECE programs can participate in **Child Care Hiring Days for PA on March 29, 30 and 31, 2022** at no cost! During this 3-day event, ECE programs will host walk-in hiring events, featuring on-the-spot interviews at their locations. Programs will display yellow balloons, ribbons, or stars in front of their facility to signify that they are participating in Child Care Hiring Days of PA. This event will be widely advertised via radio, social media and community organizations. The event aims to simplify the job search and hiring process for potential applicants and promote the rewards of working in early childhood education. **You can register, post your job positions, view the recorded Information Session and learn more at ECEhire.com!** [Child Care Hiring Days for PA \(phmc.org\)](http://www.phmc.org/child-care-hiring-days-for-pa)

### **PQA Team – Talking Quality and Providing Individualized Supports**

The Program Quality Assessment team at the PA Key is now available to support you one-on-one in a variety of areas:

- Classroom environment, interactions, practices
- Targeted health and safety coaching
- Targeted leadership, management and business practices coaching
- Other classroom focused support as requested

Contact your quality coach if interested. Here's the contact list for quality coaches:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/tt11v7wz9ribxemn4990h/Provider-Caseload-List-STARS-External-revised-2-9-2022.docx?dl=0&rlkey=kyd1rkb6y2j7as0a6ogoyxcet>

Additionally, the Let's Talk Quality series for March starts on **Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>** and will focus on Art. See the [attached flyer](#) for dates and additional information.

### **PD Registry Virtual Office Hours in Spanish**

The PD Registry team will be holding 3 virtual office hours in Spanish over the next 3 months. The first session will be held this week, **March 9, 2022**. The team will be holding office hours in the afternoon and evening. Office hours details are available in the attachments ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)).

### **Free Webinar: Movement - FUN With a Purpose!**

**Wednesday, March 9, 2022, 2:00-3:00PM (Central)**

**Link to Register:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkdu-vqjouGtbZI83AeKrhkaiy6IXERn07>

**Presented by: Bev Schumacher**

Invite preschoolers to purposefully move as they learn, while having FUN. This training will share simple resources, ideas, and activities that can extend indoor and outdoor movement experiences. Ten movement principles, reflections about active play, and tested suggestions will guide educators to make **Movement - FUN With a Purpose!** Bev Schumacher offers trainings rich with practical experience in the field of family engagement and early learning. She is an author, presenter, consultant, & creator of educational games & books. Her background includes teaching, working in a public library, being a home visitor and a parent engagement coordinator. She is passionate about empowering educators to embrace PARENTS as PARTNERS in supporting learning outcomes.

**Helping Child Care Programs with Health Policies and Procedures**

**Thursday, March 10, 2022, 2–3 p.m. ET**

**Register Online Now!**

Child care health consultants (CCHCs) support early childhood programs in many ways, including with policy development and implementation. Program policies and procedures that are science-informed and evidence-based help ensure the health, safety, and wellness of children, families, and staff. In this CCHC series webinar, explore strategies and resources CCHCs and program leadership can use to review and develop health policies and procedures.

#### **Key Topics**

In this webinar, we're discussing:

- Supporting collaborative relationships between CCHCs and early childhood programs
- Engaging program leadership, staff, and families to create effective health and safety procedures
- Resources to review and develop health policies and procedures

#### **Target Audience**

This webinar benefits:

- CCHCs
- Head Start and Early Head Start health services staff and other service area managers
- Child care directors
- Nurses working with child care and pre-K programs
- Child care resource and referral agency personnel

#### **How to Register**

Select the link to register for the webinar:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ZAJyJLAUTxizjliGZna88w](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZAJyJLAUTxizjliGZna88w)

Watch the full [CCHC series](#) on-demand.

#### **Related Resources**

Explore related resources on the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC) to learn more.

- [CCHC Competencies](#)
- [CCHC Skill-Building Modules](#)
- [CCHCs Make Early Care and Education Programs Healthier and Safer](#)

#### **Stay Connected**

Join [MyPeers](#) to connect with Head Start and early childhood colleagues around the country on this and other topics. Members of the **Child Care Health Consultants** community are currently networking, sharing, and learning from each other. Find it under "All Communities" and select the blue "Join" button. Please share this message with colleagues who may be interested in this topic.

Did someone forward you this invitation? [Subscribe](#) to stay up to date!

#### **Questions?**

Send your questions or comments to the National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety at [health@ecetta.info](mailto:health@ecetta.info) or (toll-free) 888-227-5125.

### **Building Social and Emotional Development Outdoors**

**Thursday, March 17, 2022, 3–4 p.m. ET**

**[Register Online Now!](#)**

Did you know that being outside fuels social and emotional development? It's true! Preschool children are often engaged in social activities when outdoors, and active bodies often lead to active emotions. These are the elements children need for constructive social and emotional learning. This Front Porch webinar begins a three-part series that explores learning outdoors during the preschool years. In this first episode, Dawson Nichols and Marley Jarvis from the National Center on Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning (NCECDTL) discuss the ways outdoor environments create ideal conditions for children's social and emotional development. They explain how adults can use outdoor environments to help build social and emotional skills in children ages 3 to 5. This webinar has English and Spanish captioning.

#### **Key Topics**

Topics for the webinar include:

- How the outdoors provides a rich learning environment for social and emotional development
- Strategies for creating and using outdoor spaces to support social and emotional development for children ages 3 to 5

#### **Target Audience**

This webinar benefits:

- Head Start, Migrant and Seasonal Head Start, and American Indian and Alaska Native Head Start program staff, directors, managers, and administrators
- Child care program staff, directors, managers, and administrators
- TTA providers
- Federal and Regional Office staff
- Head Start Collaboration Offices

#### **How to Register**

Select the link to register:

<https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/3485282/46D20D00A6C9A6A89AA631AD5D42446C>

Certificates of completion are available for this webinar.

Watch all of the [Front Porch Series](#) videos on-demand!

#### **Related Resources**

Explore related resources on the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC) to learn more.

- [Using the Natural World to Support Children's Development](#)
- [25 Easy Ideas for Nature Play for Early Childhood Centers](#)
- [Nature-based Learning and Development for Teachers](#)

#### **Stay Connected**

Join [MyPeers](#) to connect with Head Start and early childhood colleagues around the country on this and other topics.

Please share this message with colleagues who may be interested in this topic.

Did someone forward you this invitation? [Subscribe](#) to stay up to date!

#### **Questions?**

Send your questions and comments to NCECDTL at [ecdctl@ecetta.info](mailto:ecdctl@ecetta.info) or (toll-free) 844-261-3752.

**Free Devereux Webinar: Resilience and Racial Equity**

**Friday, March 18, 2022 from 1-2:15pm ET**

**[Grab Your Spot](#)**

We are all striving to create early care and education spaces that promote resilience and racial equity. We invite you to join Nefertiti B. Poyner, Ed.D., and Rachel Wagner, MSW, as they help us think about how resilience work is equity work. Together, we will explore the intersections of risk, protection, resilience, social-emotional learning and racism. Race is not a risk factor, but experiencing racism and implicit bias puts Black and Brown children at higher risk for being overdisciplined and under-nurtured. The protective factors of healthy relationships, self-regulation, initiative, and internal beliefs can fortify both children and adults as we work to create culturally responsive and sustaining environments, where Black and Brown children's identities can be amplified and empowered. In this webinar, we will learn to use a resilience framework to combat racism and promote social justice in early care and education. If we are going to protect and promote the resilience of Black and Brown children, we each have to fight fearlessly against racial injustice. What will you do differently? *Registration capacity is 1,000. Spots will fill fast, so don't hesitate! Can't make it to the live delivery? You can still register to guarantee your access to the recording.*

### **March 18<sup>th</sup> CWGEC Conference**

**Friday, March 18, 2022 from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM EDT**

#### **[Register Now](#)**

The CWGEC Conference will feature BELL's Sarah Vrabic and FathersRead365 (FR365). Ms. Vrabic and her colleagues at Villanova University recently had research published in a peer-reviewed journal on families in Philadelphia's shelters. She will share with us the experiences of many of our families. FathersRead365's (FR365) mission is to encourage fathers and/or caregivers to read daily with children in a variety of settings to develop literacy from birth. FR365 provides an early intervention method structured to increase the amount of books read and given away to preschoolers through kindergarten and create a culture of literacy.

### **Head Start Collaboration and Partnerships to Support Families Experiencing Homelessness**

Please see [the recent report](#) from the Pennsylvania Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) on existing collaborations among key partners that serve families experiencing homelessness. It also offers recommendations to grow collaboration and partnerships among Head Start grantees in Pennsylvania.

### **PACCA Spring Webinars**

PACCA is pleased to offer the following webinars this spring! Pick and choose the topics that work for you! PQAS/PD Registry hours are available for each webinar. Questions? Contact Maureen Murphy at [maureen.murphy@pacca.org](mailto:maureen.murphy@pacca.org). We look forward to seeing you!

- **The ABCs of CQI**

**Wednesday, March 23, 2022 | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST**

This session, geared toward program Leadership, will discuss what Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) is and why it is so important for ECE and School-Age programs, as well as how CQI relates to the Keystone STARS Standards and requirements. We will give you creative tools and techniques to help guide and inform your CQI Plan as well as to get your staff involved in the planning process. Lastly, you will have the opportunity to create a CQI goal and discuss it with a small group of participants in a breakout room. Our hope is that you will gain a better understanding of how CQI planning can help maximize your program's quality improvements.

Participants will be able to:

- Define Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) and describe what it means for Keystone STARS programs in PA.
- Identify various techniques and tools to help guide and inform their CQI plan and to involve staff members in the creation of the plan
- Complete your own CQI goal and discuss it with a small group of participants

#### **Instructors:**

Jenn Wertz and Elizabeth Marcello, STARS Quality Coaches, Child Care Consultants

**Cost:** PACCA Members - \$10.00 | Non-Members - \$20.00

[Click Here to Register](#) | Zoom - Link will be sent after registration

- **Family Engagement**

**Wednesday, April 13, 2022 | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST**

This session will focus on engaging families in your program – after all, family engagement is not just a holiday concert. Family involvement vs. family engagement will be discussed, with the importance on the relationship. Strategies for increasing engagement and offering (in-person and virtual) activities will be reviewed and you will have the opportunity to share what you’ve been doing in your program. You are guaranteed to come away with at least one new way for families to take more interest in what is going on in your program!

- Participants will be able to:
- List reasons why building relationships with the families of the children in their care (and supporting staff in doing the same) is essential to the child’s success.
- Identify different forms of communication and ways to engage families in their program.

**Instructor:** Jenn Wertz, STARS Quality Coach, Child Care Consultants

**Cost:** PACCA Members - \$10.00 | Non-Members - \$20.00

[Click Here to Register](#) | Zoom - Link will be sent after registration

- **The Importance of Nature in Early Childhood Education**

**Wednesday, May 4, 2022 | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST**

You’ve heard the terms. “Nature-based learning”, “nature-based ECE”, “nature play”, “forest school”, “forest kindergarten”. But are they really crucial for young children? And if so, how do you begin to implement them into your already-established curriculum? In this workshop we will look at the benefits of nature for young children and how incorporating more nature into your day will create joyful environments for you and your children. We will discuss simple strategies for incorporating nature both indoors and outdoors, and how this type of experiential, hands-on learning will help reduce challenging behaviors in your classroom.

Participants will be able to:

- Describe the benefits of nature for young children and why it is crucial for their development.
- Recognize how challenging behaviors lessen in the classroom when children participate in hand-on, child-led play, which often involves nature.
- Identify ways to incorporate nature both indoors and outdoors with their classrooms.

**Instructor:** Elizabeth Marcello, STARS Quality Coach, Child Care Consultants

**Cost:** PACCA Members - \$10.00 | Non-Members - \$20.00

[Click Here to Register](#) | Zoom - Link will be sent after registration

- **ADVOCACY SERIES**

**Nuts and Bolts (Session 1 of 2)**

**Wednesday, March 30, 2022 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM**

We will lay out the PA budget process, what’s a “target,” an “ask,” the role(s) of advocates and legislators, how to research your targets, make your approach, and prep for the meeting. At the end of the session you’ll get a homework assignment that could take up to a half-hour.

**Facilitator:** Shawn Towey, Public Policy/Community Outreach Manager, PACCA

**Cost:** \$0.00 (All Registrants)

[Click Here to Register for session 1](#) | Zoom - Link will be sent after registration

**I Scheduled a Meeting with my Legislator! Now What? (Session 2 of 2)**

**Wednesday, April 6, 2022 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM**

We’ll show you how to shape your own story into effective communication that will resonate with your audience. Adapt our talking points around the 2022 state budget into messages they’ll remember. We’ll

review the Start Strong PA and Pre-K for PA “asks” around child care and pre-k. You’ll be able to prep your staff and parents to be active participants on your team.

**Facilitator:** Shawn Towey, Public Policy/Community Outreach Manager, PACCA

**Cost:** \$0.00 (All Registrants)

[Click Here to Register for session 2](#) | Zoom - Link will be sent after registration

### **"This Girl in On Fire": An Intergenerational Conversation**

In honor of Women's History month please join "**This Girl in On Fire": An Intergenerational Conversation**, Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> 1:00-2:30pm in which diverse women will create opportunities to build trust through highlighting shared experiences and powerful self-reflections. Please register to participate in these restorative conversations sponsored by Black National Child Development Institute (BCDI-Philadelphia), Family Childcare Coalition (FC3), Innovative Educational Consulting Services (Damaris A-Rodriguez), The Education Institute for Early Intervention (EIEI), The Kimble Group, LLC, The Voice of Early Childhood Education, and Quality Influential Professionals (QIP).

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEsd-qurz4rGtbnmokSRkMc8PNtz9x7QC7>

### **Call for Vendors!**

***You are invited to participate in Caring People Alliance's [Founder's Day Community Resource Fair in Cobbs Creek](#).***

**April 21, 2022 – 3 to 7p**

Caring People Alliance's founders Charles Edwin Fox, Esq., a leader in the founding of the Big Brother [Big Sister] Association of Philadelphia and philanthropist Samuel S. Fels brought together nearly two hundred prominent leaders in business and social welfare, judges, and lawyers on April 21, 1932, to found our organization. Now, 90 years later, we will be opening the doors of our newest Boys & Girls Club to continue our mission of reducing poverty and injustice. We invite the community to participate in this day, and one way to participate is through our Community Resource Fair. Vendors from the community are now invited to join Caring People Alliance in presenting community resources during this in-person event being held on the second-floor gymnasium at the new West Philadelphia Boys & Girls Club, located at 5843-55 Catharine Street. Learn more on our

website: [www.caringpeoplealliance.org/events/community-resource-fairs](http://www.caringpeoplealliance.org/events/community-resource-fairs)

### **New PD Opportunity - Early Intervention Service Delivery: Coaching Across Settings**

This self-paced eTraining for the Early Childhood Education (ECE) community is now available for ECE programs across the commonwealth. In order to access, ECE personnel can visit the [PA PD Registry](#) and use the Filter by Title feature to search for “Early Intervention Service Delivery: Coaching Across Settings.” This course will help you understand how Early Childhood Education professionals will collaborate with Early Intervention staff (EI) to support children with disabilities. Participants will explore the various components of OCDEL Announcement EI-20-03 Early Intervention Service Delivery: Coaching Across Settings and learn how the Principles of Early Intervention in Pennsylvania are demonstrated throughout the work of Early Intervention and Early Childhood staff within early childhood classrooms/programs.

### **Are You Ready for the 2022 Week of the Young Child™?**

*(From NAEYC)*

We can't wait to celebrate WOYC with you this year, April 2-8, 2022. Join NAEYC as we celebrate our youngest learners with five fun-filled, themed days. All week long we'll be featuring resources and activity ideas for teachers and families that will make play meaningful and learning fun! NAEYC invites you to celebrate and shine a spotlight on your classroom, advocacy, and family engagement activities via our social channels. We look forward to seeing all the creative ways you find to engage young children and their families with hands-on, collaborative activities encouraging movement and healthy lifestyles through music, food, and art. Start planning your week around our [daily classroom celebration themes](#). Or create your own! The important thing is that we're celebrating the potential of ALL young children to

learn, grow and thrive! Discover [resources and Step It Up \(SIU\) ideas](#) to use in your planning. The updated 2022 version will be available soon. Share your ideas with us on social media sites using #WOYC22 or email us at [woyc@naeyc.org](mailto:woyc@naeyc.org).

### **Drexel ECE Scholarships**

Both scholarships can be used for online programs, allowing licensed providers and assistants to continue their careers and prepare for advancement. The two scholarships include:

- PA Teach – which offers a 95% tuition discount for the post-bachelors teacher certification in PreK-4 - <https://drexel.edu/soe/resources/community/TEACH/>
- PHMC – which offers our Bachelor in Elementary Education/PreK-4 for a 100% tuition discount. - <https://drexel.edu/soe/resources/community/phmc-ece-scholarship/>

Email [ceec@drexel.edu](mailto:ceec@drexel.edu) with any questions.

### **Provider Advisory Board Applications Now Available**

The [Start Strong PA](#) and [Pre-K for PA](#) Campaigns are seeking out early childhood professionals to participate as a lead advocate in their region by serving on the first statewide Start Strong PA and Pre-K for PA Provider Advisory Board! Early childhood professionals are [invited to apply](#) for this opportunity through March 28.

### **ECELS EMAIL ALERT: Contaminated Baby Formula Alert**

Please be advised that the FDA is currently investigating powdered infant products produced at Abbott Nutrition's facility in Sturgis, Michigan. Four infants have been hospitalized and one infant has died as a result of their illnesses, believed to be tied to the bacterium Cronobacter sakazakii and the strain Salmonella Newport. Read more [here](#). Parents and consumers are advised to avoid any powdered infant formula developed in the Sturgis facility. The FDA recommends that consumers avoid Similac, Alimentum and EleCare formulas if they contain the following criteria:

- The first two digits of the code are 22 through 37
- The code on the container includes K8, SH or Z2
- The expiration date is 4-1-2022 (APR 2022) or later

The code on the bottom of the package can also be entered [here](#) to determine whether the product is affected.

An article has been posted on this topic on HealthyChildren.org - [What should I know about the infant formula recall?](#)

### **Family Self-sufficiency Resource: CLARIFI**

*Please share the following resource with your staff and families:*

Do you live in a Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) property or have a Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8)? Are you interested in increasing your income and building your savings? The Family Self-Sufficiency program is designed to help you reach your financial goals.

What's your goal?

- Increase your income
- Go back to school
- Establish and maintain good credit
- Purchase a home

<https://www.clarifi.org/what-we-do/financial-empowerment/family-self-sufficiency/>

(267) 546-1153

### **PA's Water Assistance Program is Here to Help**

Funding continues to be available for eligible individuals and families experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic through the [Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program \(LIHWAP\)](#).

This assistance can aid in maintaining households' access to drinking and wastewater services essential to ongoing health and overall wellbeing. Program funds are issued directly to the service providers in the form of grants, or crisis grants depending on situation severity. To qualify for the program, participants



must either rent or own their home, have overdue water bills, and meet [program income guidelines](#).  
[Apply now for water help!](#)

### **Help for a Friend...**

If you use Smartcare, please help a friend! Contact Charlene Rawlinson of Lene's Daily Child Care at [lene@leneschildcare.com](mailto:lene@leneschildcare.com).

### **Cubbies Available**

Lamont Academy has cubbies available free of charge, as long as you can pick them up. Please see the [attached pictures](#) and contact Naimah Skipworth at 215-329-2200 if you're interested.

### **Job Openings**

- **ELRC Region 18** is hiring for the following positions: Provider Specialist, Eligibility Specialist, Accounting Specialist, Administrative Assistant. Interested applicants should send their resume to Sheila Colon at [scolon@caringpeoplealliance.org](mailto:scolon@caringpeoplealliance.org).
- **OCDEL's Southeast Regional Certification office** is hiring certification representatives. For additional information: [https://www.dropbox.com/s/3uvpyv57h4w2tjf/Job Posting - Certification Representative%2C Southeast South %28External%29.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/3uvpyv57h4w2tjf/Job%20Posting%20-%20Certification%20Representative%20-%20Southeast%20South%20-%20External%29.pdf?dl=0)
- **The ECE PDO at PHMC is Hiring** - View open positions by searching "PDO" on PHMC's careers page at <https://www.phmc.org/site/careers>.
- **First Up and VISTA** is looking for our next Community Outreach Coordinator for the Community-driven Design Project! The goal is to better understand and develop specialized programming for our constituents in underserved and vulnerable communities. The overall goal of the VISTA Fellow is to build capacity for the work of First Up, and to reach all providers in the most vulnerable and under-resourced areas of our region. To apply or to learn more [CLICK HERE!](#)
- **Caring People Alliance** currently has two exciting employment opportunities open at our South Philadelphia Boys & Girls Club Marconi Program! We are currently seeking a [Director of Older Adult Services](#) and a [Program Counselor of Older Adult Services](#). The Director of Older Adult Services is responsible for providing administrative oversight for the older adult program serving active adults over the age of 50. The salary ranges from \$50,000-\$55,000 annually. The Program Counselor provides direct services to participants attending the older adult program for active senior citizens including resource counseling, service coordination, and personal guidance. The starting salary is \$16.57 an hour. If you have an interest in either one of these roles, please review the job descriptions attached and apply by emailing your resume to Branon Gilmore, at [bgilmore@caringpeoplealliance.org](mailto:bgilmore@caringpeoplealliance.org) and cc'ing [klorenzi@caringpeoplealliance.org](mailto:klorenzi@caringpeoplealliance.org).

### **SSIC You Later!**

Finally, here's another tip on using Sesame Street in Communities ([www.ssic.org](http://www.ssic.org)) to meet the Keystone Standards in your program...

***You can use the [Managing Big Bundles](#) resource on SSIC toward meeting Standard FC 3.4.8***

Unexpected (and even expected) changes can lead to big feelings for young children. The resources in this bundle will...

- introduce the idea of emotional literacy,
- offer strategies to help families talk about and express emotions,
- provide playful activities you can do together to manage big feelings.

Sign up for your free SSIC account now! Reach out to ELRC 18's Abby Ambassadors – Cheri Howard, Gladys Leon and Sherell Hamilton – for help navigating the website or to explore other ideas on ways to use this FREE and fun resource to help meet your STAR standards!

**Monthly Provider Networking Meetings** – Join the virtual conversation and get updates, share resources and ideas with your peers and more! Representatives from OCDEL’s Southeast Region Certification Office will be participating in many of the upcoming meetings!

- **3/16/2022 – Third Wednesday at 1p** - Northwest Directors Meeting –*NOTE: This Zoom meeting is hosted by Childspace Centers and is open to all providers in the community. To RSVP and receive the meeting link, please e-mail [jfilante@childspacecenters.org](mailto:jfilante@childspacecenters.org).* Sadira Thigpen from OCDEL’s Southeast Region Certification Office will be attending!
- **3/17/2022 – Third Thursday** – ELRC 18 North Directors from 1-3p ([Click HERE to join the Teams meeting at 1p](#)). Markeeta Talbert from OCDEL’s Southeast Region Certification Office will be attending!
- **3/24/2022 – Fourth Thursday** – ELRC 18 South/West Directors from 1-3p ([Click HERE to join the Teams meeting at 1p](#)). Kim Merritt from OCDEL’s Southeast Region Certification Office will be attending!
- **4/7/2022 – First Thursday** – ELRC 18 Northeast Directors from 1-3p ([Click HERE to join the Teams meeting at 1p](#))
- **4/9/2022 – Second Saturday at 9a** – Quality Influential Professionals (QIP) family child care networking – open to all FCCH/GCCH providers. Join the Zoom meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88486647664>
- **4/14/2022 – Segundo Jueves** – ELRC 18 Proveedores de habla hispana de 6p-8p ([Click HERE to join the Teams meeting at 6p](#)) – *Meeting on the second Thursday of the month for Spanish-speaking providers.*

**Do you want to learn more about NAEYC Accreditation?** - Join ELRC 18 for “Accreditation 101: Understanding the Accreditation Process and Expectations" This free session provides an overview of the four-step process for achieving National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Accreditation. This training is recommended for center-based directors, owners and staff that are not currently accredited and those who are embarking on their initial accreditation.

When: **Friday, March 25th, 2022, 1:00-3:00 am**

Where: Online

Register here: <https://form.jotform.com/220699333017153>

If you have questions, contact your [ELRC 18 Quality Coach!](#)

**Do you need some new ideas for responding to children's behaviors? Learn to FLIP IT!**

ELRC 18 is sponsoring scholarships for Devereux’s upcoming Flip It! Hybrid experience including:

- Virtual Kick-Off with Flip-It Author - **Monday, April 4, 1:00-1:45**
- Self-paced Online Webinar: Due **Friday, April 8, 2.5 PQAS Hours**
- Virtual Send Off - **Friday, April 8, 1:00-2:00**

- Flip It! goodies sent to you in the mail

For more information and to register go to: <https://cvent.me/Oz78VR?RefId=philly>. When you click the registration button, you will be asked for some information. Please be sure to include your work address. The next page of registration has some mandatory questions for you, including a shipping address for materials. You will be asked if you need 2.5 hours of PQAS credit. If you check yes, a box pops for your PA KEY PD Registry ID #.

*Discount Code:* The last page of registration is the payment page. In the Discount Code Box, write **PHILLY** in capital letters. Then click the "apply" button right next to this field. If you work in Philadelphia, you will then be given a full scholarship. (Note: If you do not work in Philadelphia, you can still attend but will need to pay full price.)

Questions? Email us at [sbadanes@caringpeoplealliance.org](mailto:sbadanes@caringpeoplealliance.org)

## **COVID Corner**

### **Reminders**

- **Reporting COVID Cases**

Remember that OCDEL requires you to report all cases of COVID-19 in your program to both Certification and the Department of Public Health. In Philadelphia, the easiest way to do this is to use the following link: [https://phillyhs.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1NWgJ7yfK46dXMi](https://phillyhs.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1NWgJ7yfK46dXMi)

- **Masks** – If you are in need of disposable masks, please e-mail [Nina.L-Grosbard@phila.gov](mailto:Nina.L-Grosbard@phila.gov).

### **Updates**

- **Test Kits Now Available!** – The PDPH Pediatric Partnership Team and ELRC 18 have partnered to distribute COVID-19 At-home Test Kits to the ECE Community. These Self-Test Kits will be available for pick up by appointment only at Early Learning Resource Center Region 18, 2361-2373 Welsh Road (19114). Here is the link to request Covid-19 Self Test kits: <https://form.jotform.com/213097807632055>. Requests will be filled in the order received. In the meantime, here is a link to a YouTube clip on proper use of the test kits: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9CTAJDKjO0>. Attached is a [one-pager you may distribute to parents and staff regarding the test kits and their use](#), as well [an instruction sheet](#). Please remember that the at-home test kits CANNOT be used to document return after staff or children have had a positive COVID case; you must still have a doctor's note or negative PCR test (signed by a physician) to readmit.
- **Office Basics PPE/Cleaning Supplies accounts coming this week** – ELRC 18 is please to again be able to provide licensed providers with an account at Office Basics that you can use to order the personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies most needed by your program. You should receive an e-mail in the next few days from Office Basics. IT IS NOT A SCAM! If you do not receive your e-mail by the end of the week, please check

your junk mail folder and let me know if you do not receive it ([dgetzinger@caringpeoplealliance.org](mailto:dgetzinger@caringpeoplealliance.org)).

- **Quick FYI courtesy of Tom Copeland** – The following was in response to a specific question from a Philadelphia provider.  
*Question* > We hope to put a vaccine requirement in place for kids who attend our school age summer camp this summer. One angry parent told me that this is illegal if we take federal or state funds. Is there anything that you know of that says if we accept CCW payment, we cannot put a vaccine requirement in place?

*Answer* > You can require children to be vaccinated. It's not against any law. If a parent insists that it's illegal, ask them to show you a law that supports their position. It's not clear if you can require parents to be vaccinated. Tom

### **Join Coaching to Success for our Series for March:**

*Registration is free and we encourage you to attend each virtual session for a chance to connect and learn from industry experts and your peers.*

- **Friday, 3/18/2022: 1-2 pm** “Conversation with the Certification Reps” with DHS Childcare Certification Reps
- **Friday, 3/25/2022: 1-2 pm** “Women Leading the Way: A Conversation with a Center Child Care Provider” Aliya Johnson-Roberts, Executive Director of Pratt Street Learning Center

Please follow this is the link to the Eventbrite page: <https://bit.ly/3HE5T>

### **PEC BELL’s Next Children's Work Group Early Childhood Conference**

**March 18 @ 9:30a via Zoom**

**[Register Here](#)**

The Children's Work Group Early Childhood Conference is the only meeting space to discuss aspects of **young children experiencing homelessness**. Professionals from public health, hospitals, city and state government, homeless housing, early childhood education, academia, home visiting, child welfare, early intervention, and other systems come together. We host **trainings, workshops**, and panels of **guest leadership**. And we network; by getting to know one another, we **improve how our systems collaborate**. We meet every third Friday of the month, starting at 9:30 AM. **Join** our mailing list by emailing [jwillard@pec-cares.org](mailto:jwillard@pec-cares.org).

On **March 18**, the conference will feature the following presentations:

- **Sarah Vrabic, PEC Everyday Learning Play Spaces Manager**, presenting on her newly published peer-reviewed article in the Child: Care, Health and Development journal, “Perceptions of support in shelter environments for caregivers and

young children experiencing family homelessness.” The article centers around family interviews she conducted with a team of colleagues before the pandemic.

- **FathersRead365** (FR365)’s mission is to encourage fathers and/or caregivers to read daily with children in a variety of settings to develop literacy from birth. FR365 provides an early intervention method structured to increase the number of books read and given away to preschoolers through kindergarten and create a culture of literacy.

### **Next SEPECC Meeting – March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

[Register now!](#)

Don’t miss the next monthly meeting of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Early Child Care Coalition – **Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9a-11a**. Always great discussion, plus lots of resources and updates!

### **Child Care Hiring Days – Are YOU Signed Up Yet?**

If your program would like to participate in this state-wide event, you can register at [ECEhire.com](https://ECEhire.com). There you can post open positions, applicant requirements, and the program’s hours for walk-in, on-the-spot interviews on **March 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>**. ECE Hire is waiving the \$10 job listing fee for participants in the Hiring Days event; just enter promo code CCHD to post your job opening(s) today! We also encourage you to post job openings for free on the [PA Career Link for Employers](#) and Pennsylvania Child Care Association’s (PACCA) job board. PACCA members can post their job postings directly by logging into <https://memberleap.com/members/jobs/>. In support of Child Care Hiring Days for PA, non-members can post their jobs at no cost using this link

and PACCA will post to the job board: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PACCAJobBoard>.

Please note that although this is a state-wide event, it is up to your program to determine how to conduct interviews, screen participants, and make decisions. Potential job applicants will still seek out individual programs from [ECEhire.com](https://ECEhire.com), so programs should promote each job opening accordingly. Advertise benefits, salary, and what makes your program unique! In the Brief Overview section, be sure to include your program’s Child Care Hiring Days for PA event details including the time, date, location, and contact person for walk-in interviews and any additional details for each job posting you create.

View this Child Care Hiring Days for PA [Information Session](#) video to learn more about participating.

### **RISER Network Fireside Chat with Dr. Deborah Johnson**

**March 24, 2022 – 3p-4p**

[Register Online](#)

Please join the RISER Network for a conversation with Dr. Deborah J. Johnson about racial/ethnic identity development and racial socialization in varying contexts, including young children, adolescents and emerging adults, principally among African American and other ethnic children and families domestically and internationally.

### **PACCA Webinar Series: Racial Equity for Early Childhood Educators**

*A 4-part Zoom series led by Jamar Daniels and Ruby Martin. Join our Breakfast Club workgroup on Tuesday mornings in April!*

Do you want to strengthen your work as an Anti-Racist Educator? Are you struggling with how to best use your time and focus energy in your fight for equity? Would you like to have access to other Anti-Racists who are as passionate about this work as you are? If this sounds like you, apply today to be selected for the PACCA series Racial Equity for Early Childhood Educators. This journey - which will occur via Zoom and will be held on four Tuesday mornings in April - will secure your understanding of racial equity in education, allow you to awaken to what needs to be done, and learn how to best use your voice and privilege toward eliminating racism.

*For additional information including facilitator information and session descriptions, visit the PACCA website at*

*[https://www.memberleap.com/members/evr/reg\\_event.php?orgcode=PCCA&evid=30202631](https://www.memberleap.com/members/evr/reg_event.php?orgcode=PCCA&evid=30202631)*

**When: April 5, 12, 19, and 26 - 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM**

**Cost of the series:** PACCA Members - \$50/person | Non Members - \$75/person

#### **How to Apply:**

- Complete [the attached application form](#).
- Email to Maureen Murphy at [murphy@pacca.org](mailto:murphy@pacca.org)
- Subject Line - Racial Equity Series.

**Deadline for application: March 25, 2022**

*Don't miss these other PACCA Webinar opportunities!*

- **March 23, 1:00 - 3:00 pm: The ABCs of CQI**  
Register  
at [https://www.memberleap.com/members/evr/reg\\_event.php?orgcode=PCCA&evid=30029107](https://www.memberleap.com/members/evr/reg_event.php?orgcode=PCCA&evid=30029107)
- **March 30, 1:00 - 2:30 pm: Advocate with Confidence! (Part 1 of 2 | Nuts and Bolts)**  
Register  
at [https://www.memberleap.com/members/evr/reg\\_event.php?orgcode=PCCA&evid=30036439](https://www.memberleap.com/members/evr/reg_event.php?orgcode=PCCA&evid=30036439)
- **April 6, 1:00 - 2:30 pm: Advocate with Confidence! (Part 2 of 2 - I You Scheduled a Meeting! Now What?)**

[https://www.memberleap.com/members/evr/reg\\_event.php?orgcode=PCCA&evid=30037661](https://www.memberleap.com/members/evr/reg_event.php?orgcode=PCCA&evid=30037661)

- **April 13, 1:00 - 3:00 pm: Family Engagement**

[https://www.memberleap.com/members/evr/reg\\_event.php?orgcode=PCCA&evid=30032773](https://www.memberleap.com/members/evr/reg_event.php?orgcode=PCCA&evid=30032773)

- **May 4, 1:00 – 3:00 pm: The Importance of Nature in Early Childhood Education**

[https://www.memberleap.com/members/evr/reg\\_event.php?orgcode=PCCA&evid=30033995](https://www.memberleap.com/members/evr/reg_event.php?orgcode=PCCA&evid=30033995)

### **Summer School-Age Prep from PennSACCA**

Dive into a series of professional development presented by PennSACCA in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Key. Starting **March 24<sup>th</sup>**, topics include:

- SAC Afterschool/Summer Camp Comprehensive Programming
- SAC Career Awareness / STEM / PBL and the Arts
- SAC Youth Engagement and Introduction to the SEL PQA Tool
- SAC Engagement with Family, Schools, Community and Program Advocacy
- SAC Provider Health and Safety for Summer

Please see [the attached flyer](#) for details and registration information.

### **Montessori Much?**

Have you been wanting to learn more about Montessori philosophy? Join Mini Montessori Academy Inc for one of the following information sessions. When it's time for the meeting, just click on this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81833191375>. Meeting ID: 818 3319 1375.

- **Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30p**
- **Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30p**

### **PQA's Let's Talk Quality in April!**

April's focus will be "Sparkling Interactions." Learn about: powerful questions; elements to spark conversations; formulating questions based on children's development and Bloom's taxonomy. You can access the monthly blog at <http://letstalkqualitypa.com/> and see [the attached flyer](#) for webinar and spotlight discussion dates!

### **FCCH: Are you interested in National Accreditation?**

If you are a family child care provider and have been wondering about NAFCC accreditation, please take a minute to complete this short survey:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdZlBsAz21ZHxUdst1PIQMbPCtzbBDh1\\_QwAjqMPZYIeIgVQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdZlBsAz21ZHxUdst1PIQMbPCtzbBDh1_QwAjqMPZYIeIgVQ/viewform). Philadelphia's own Minnette Taylor is NAFCC'S state representative

for Pennsylvania, and there's LOTS being planned. Be sure you're on the list for updates and opportunities!

### **2022 VOICE for Children Award Ceremony**

And speaking of Minnette Taylor...guess who's being awarded for all of her achievements and hard work on behalf of children?! YES! Please see the information below if you'd like to join the crew traveling to celebrate with her...

### **The 11th Annual VOICE for Children Award Celebration**

**Friday, April 8, 2022 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm**

**Hershey Lodge - 325 University Dr, Hershey, PA 17033**

**Registration closes March 23, 2022.**

Event Costs: \$150.00 per person

[Click here to register!](#)

### **United Way sponsors OpportUNITY summit to confront poverty**

Imagine a world where poverty doesn't exist. What will it take to get us there? Join us **Friday, April 22** for [United Way's inaugural OpportUNITY Summit!](#) This immersive gathering will bring together hundreds of business, civic, and community leaders for a day of learning, connection, and action. The OpportUNITY Summit will examine our region's toughest issues and explore the most promising and impactful pathways to ending poverty and expanding opportunity. Featuring national experts, local luminaries, and engaging discussions, this event will push us to think bigger as we amplify our shared goal of building a stronger, more prosperous region for all. For more details and to register, go [here](#).

### **Teach Plus PA 2022-23 Teaching Policy Fellowship**

In summer 2022, Teach Plus will launch its second full cohort of Teaching Policy Fellows in Pennsylvania. This highly selective leadership opportunity is for 30 outstanding teachers (early childhood to 12<sup>th</sup> grade) looking to deepen their knowledge of education policy and amplify the voices of teacher leaders in Pennsylvania. Policy fellows, who will receive a \$1,500 stipend for their commitment, will expand their influence without leaving the classroom and elevate teacher voice on important student equity issues. Complete and submit a written application prior to the May 2, 2022, deadline. [Learn more and apply](#) or [nominate a teacher](#).

Complete and submit a written application prior to the deadline: **May 2nd, 2022**. Teach Plus Pennsylvania will host five virtual information sessions prior to the application deadline:

- **Tuesday, March 22nd at 4 PM:** [Register](#)



- **Monday, April 4th at 6 PM:** [Register](#)
- **Wednesday, April 13th at 7 PM:** [Register](#)
- **Monday, April 25th at 4 PM:** [Register](#)

**Questions?** Contact Teach Plus Pennsylvania Executive Laura Boyce at [lboyce@teachplus.org](mailto:lboyce@teachplus.org).

### **Do you SBDC?**

The Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) provide education and no-cost consulting services to entrepreneurs and small business owners. The SBDC is ready to help you grow your business. The SBDC's one-on-one management consulting emphasizes education and guidance in finding practical solutions to business problems. Consulting is confidential and provided at no-charge by a staff of skilled professionals. With 18 college- and university-based centers and more than 90 outreach centers located throughout the state of Pennsylvania, the help you need is just around the corner. Contact your [local SBDC](#) to arrange for a free and confidential one-on-one consultation. Check out these FREE, upcoming webinars:

- **March 30** – Get Your Local Business on Google Search and Maps ([REGISTER](#))
- **April 27** – Using YouTube to Grow Your Business ([REGISTER](#))
- **May 17** – Making Better Business Decisions with Analytics ([REGISTER](#))

### **Free Business Financial Consulting Program**

[Apply today](#) to participate in the Philadelphia Department of Commerce's FREE Business Financial Consulting Program. Selected business owners will receive 12 hours of FREE consulting with an accounting professional to update your record-keeping system and get you qualified.

- **March 22** – Facebook Ads ([REGISTER](#))
- **March 25** – Email Marketing ([REGISTER](#))

### **Digital Marketing Cohort**

The Philadelphia Department of Commerce is presenting 4 hours of FREE Digital Marketing Consulting with a marketing professional. Apply online at <https://www.tfaforms.com/4956547>.

### **Restart PHL Loan Fund**

This loan program provides flexible low-cost capital to small businesses with less than \$5M in revenue for costs associated with improved business resilience or growth, including working capital, fit-up, inventory, technology, mobilization, re-hiring, and employee training. Details:

- Loan Amount: \$25,000 - \$250,000
- Interest rate: 0%
- Term: Up to 5 years

For additional information or to apply: <https://www.pidcphila.com/restartPHL>

### **Penn State Extension PD Opportunities**

Hello everyone- My name is Darlene Sansone and I am an educator with Penn State Extension and I wanted to share some items with all of you that perhaps you could share with your families and childcare providers in your area. Many know Penn State Extension because of our Better Kid Care connection or the states 4 H or Master Gardener program but did you know we have so much more to offer. You can subscribe to our services at [extension.psu.edu](http://extension.psu.edu) to find out what is happening in any area you might be interested in or you can just browse the extension website. I wanted to share a few items today that you might also consider sharing with others.

The following information has been sent to my contact lists and I had positive responses yesterday. The kinship forums are held monthly, Mental Health First Aid is also done monthly and the mental wellness series has several different sessions available although The child care professional development will be ongoing and a list is attached. We hope you will take advantage of all we have to offer. Penn State Extension offers more than you know and we can often tailor things to suit your needs.

- April zoom course with PQAS hours is Nursery Rhymes across the curriculum

<https://extension.psu.edu/nursery-rhymes-across-the-curriculum>

- **Mental Wellness Series: Helping Others in Distress**

Learn the signs of distress and how to help those expressing symptoms during this informative event.

<https://extension.psu.edu/mental-wellness-series-helping-others-in-distress> this is a free webinar and those registering do get the recording

**Kinship Family Forum: <https://extension.psu.edu/kinship-family-forum-family-relationships> is the March forum**

Kinship family forums are monthly on the third Wednesday at noon. These free forums are a way to support kinship families. They are also recorded and the recording is posted to our website

- **Mental Health First Aid for Adults Working with Children and Youth offered each month via zoom or can be offered in-person to groups**

Learn how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health challenges in youth during this informative event.

<https://extension.psu.edu/mental-health-first-aid-adults-working-with-youth> There is a discount for groups for this course so please contact Cynthia at [cep5@psuedu](mailto:cep5@psuedu) or me at [dxs74@psu.edu](mailto:dxs74@psu.edu) if you are interested.

Stay well and be safe and I hope to see you soon at one of our events. Thanks for taking the time to read this email and hopefully you can pass on the information to others.

Darlene Sansone

Food, Families and Health Team

Penn State Extension, Lawrence County Courthouse

430 Court St. New Castle, PA 16101

724/654-8370

### **PA Dept. of Education to offer \$10m towards STEM careers**

The Pennsylvania Department of Education will award up to \$10 million in PAsmart Advancing grants to prepare students for computer science (CS) and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers. The grants support CS learning, STEM and professional development opportunities. This includes opportunities provided by K-12 schools, postsecondary institutions, career and technical education centers, out-of-school time providers, early learning centers, and libraries. The purpose is to expand the pool of CS/STEM educators at all levels of education, expand CS/STEM opportunities to historically underserved populations, expand STEM ecosystems, and grow partnerships between local education agencies, postsecondary institutions and businesses. For more information, go [here](#).

### **Please Share with Your Pediatric First Aid/CPR Vendors**

In an effort to ensure adequate supply of mandated Pediatric First Aid/CPR opportunities, OCDEL is seeking to identify community-based and educational entities currently delivering this content. The purpose is to both identify available resources and explore potential partnership opportunities. In order to collect information, OCDEL created a brief survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3XC7S7W> to capture information from interested community based and educational entities. More information can be found on [the attached letter](#). Interested trainers should complete the survey by 3/31/2022.

### **Apply Now for the Be Strong Parent Café Institute Online**

Are the families you work with eager to talk with one another about parenting experiences? Is your program seeking meaningful ways to provide opportunities for family members to use their leadership skills? The Be Strong Parent Café process was created and developed by Be Strong Families to provide an environment in which family members can build the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors through individual, deep self-reflection and peer-to-peer learning.

The Be Strong Parent Café Institute Online (PCTI-O) is a highly interactive course that prepares local teams implement online parent cafés. A PCTI-O event is scheduled for **April 27-29, 2022**. To apply to attend a PCTI-O please complete and return the [Team Application/Readiness Checklist](#) by **March 23, 2022**. [Learn more](#).

### **Stay Connected!**

Many of you contact me from time to time with questions about Certification issues. *It's so important that you go to the source!* If you're not already receiving the Certification listserv e-mails, please be sure to sign up. You can sign up and see archived issues here: <https://www.pakeys.org/getting-started/about-us/newsletter-signup/certification-services-enews/>. For questions that are specific to your situation, please contact Certification directly at 1-800-346-2929.

### **Sharing Corner**

- *From Jeanne Franz and Shira Badanes:* Imagination Library is a program sponsored by Read by 4th, the Phila Dept of Public Health and Foundations (the Schwartz Foundation, which is local) where families can sign up to get free books & literacy tips mailed every month. <https://foundationsinc.org/imagination/>
- *From Zoe Buckwalter, Action for Early Learning:* [Virtual Binder](#) is a resource we created at AFEL when COVID began, to provide regularly updated links that parents, families, schools, and children for anything from learning activities to mental health support to employment opportunities. Please forward these resources to your families, childcare centers, or anyone else who may find this useful.
- *From Kelly Burnett:* Better Futures has assisted many providers in the Philadelphia area. Their web address is [betterfuturesdc.org](http://betterfuturesdc.org), they are an ECE consulting firm that works closely with the Reinvestment Fund, NAFCC and PHMC in regards to ECE fiscal and accounting needs, logo creations and website and marketing assistance. The contacts are Jahi Davis and Latoya Riggins. (202) 587 5638.

### **Job Openings**

- **Incredible Kids** is hiring a Program Director ([job description attached](#)). Please refer to any candidates that you believe have a passion for children and would like a leadership position with room for growth and development. Thank you and have an incredible day.
- **Caring People Alliance** has an exciting employment opportunity, we are currently seeking a Community Outreach Specialist at the Mission Support Office! The Community Outreach Specialist is responsible for implementing all of CPA's community outreach initiatives, services, and programs. This position has a starting salary of \$50,000 annually. If you have an interest in this role, please review the [job description attached](#) and apply by emailing your resume to Carmen Paris, at [cparis@caringpeoplealliance.org](mailto:cparis@caringpeoplealliance.org) and cc'ing Kelly Lorenzi at [klorenzi@caringpeoplealliance.org](mailto:klorenzi@caringpeoplealliance.org).
- **Smith Urban Nature Preschool Director Search** - The Smith Urban Nature (SUN) Preschool is planned to open for school year 2022-23 at the newly renovated Smith Memorial Playhouse and Playground in Fairmount Park. This role will be reporting

directly to the Board of the SUN Preschool. Additional details about the role can be found [here](#) – including how to apply. This search is led by the SUN Preschool’s board President Marc Mannella – any questions from potential candidates can be addressed directly to Marc: [mannelaconsulting@outlook.com](mailto:mannelaconsulting@outlook.com).

### **SSIC You Later!**

Finally, here’s another tip on using Sesame Street in Communities ([www.ssic.org](http://www.ssic.org)) in your program...

Problem solving is an essential skill that helps children build resilience. And it requires kids to think critically, manage their impulses, make plans, and keep trying! That seems like a lot! But children are already beginning to do these things—when they work to overcome feelings of disappointment, for example. And we can use other everyday moments to reinforce these important skills. To help break it down, we created a video with four steps we can empower children with to strengthen their problem-solving skills.

### **Resources to help:**

- **Positive Problem Solving** - In this webinar we explore strategies to help create strong connections with our children and strengthen their problem-solving skills. [Have a watch!](#)
- **Breathe, Think, Do Printable** - [Use this activity](#) to illustrate for children how problems can be broken down into steps: Breathe, Think, Do.
- **Breathe, Think, Do App** - Practice BTDo on the go! Download this free app for [Android](#) and [iPhone](#), and help a monster friend with big feelings learn to calm down and solve everyday challenges

Sign up for your free SSIC account now! Reach out to ELRC 18’s Abby Ambassadors – [Cheri Howard](#), [Gladys Leon](#) and [Sherell Hamilton](#) – for help navigating the website or to explore other ideas on ways to use this FREE and fun resource to help meet your STAR standards!